

Veramendi Palace
San Antonio, Texas.

HABS No. Tex-3128

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Texas-3

Historic American Buildings Survey
Bartlett Cocke, District Officer
615 Maverick Bldg., San Antonio, Texas.

VERAMENDI PALACE
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

Present Owner: The Clegg Co., San Antonio, Texas.

Date of Erection: Early 1800's

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Don Fernando Veramendi

Present Condition: Completely destroyed

Number of Stories: One

Materials of Construction: Limestone and adobe

Other Existing Records: San Antonio Express, October 29, 1929
Files of Miss Adina De Zavalla, 141
Taylor Street, San Antonio, Texas.

Additional Data:

The Veramendi Palace, which stood for nearly a century on Soledad Street in the center of the City of San Antonio, was the scene of more picturesque events than any private residence in the history of San Antonio. The building was completely destroyed about 1912; its massive wooden doors are now kept in the Museum of The Alamo.

This residence was built by Don Fernando Veramendi as his private residence. It was built of limestone and adobe, and was designed and planned in a typically Spanish style with barred windows along the street and heavily constructed doors which opened into an inner court or patio.

Within the walls of this old building Colonel James Bowie, of Texas revolution fame, wooed and married the beautiful Ursula Veramendi, daughter of the Vice-Governor. Colonel James Bowie came to Texas from Louisiana with his brother, Rezin, with the intention of seeking lost gold and silver mined of the old San Saba Mission. Failing in the attempt to locate the mines, he returned to San Antonio and married Ursula whom he had met on his outward journey.

In the days of its glory, the Veramendi Palace was a favorite resort of the aristocracy of the Province de Bexar. Its patio extended to the banks of the San Antonio River,

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where bathing was enjoyed by all guests. It did not become known as the Veramendi Palace until Don Juan Martin Veramendi, son of the first vice governor, was appointed Vice-Governor of the Province de Bexar in 1830. The palace was used only as a residence; business was transacted in the Governor's Palace which stood on Military Plaza. This latter building has been completely restored. At that time, the Province de Bexar extended from the west bank of the Colorado River southward to Coahuilla, Mexico.

It was toward the Veramendi Palace that Gen Milam led his men to victory in the Battle of San Antonio. Just inside the great old courtyard door he met his death; he was buried in the patio.

Later in the equally turbulent period of the Civil War, General Triggs surrendered Federal Authority to the Commissioners of the Southern Confederacy in this same old building. The Commissioners were Judge Thomas J. Devine, Samuel A. Maverick and P. M. Lockett.

Credit is due Miss Adina De Zavalla, 141 Taylor Street, San Antonio, Texas for her assistance in compiling this information.

Author: Bartlett Cooke
Bartlett Cooke, Dist. Officer

Date: March 10, 1937

TW 8/28/51